Genealogical and Historical Sketch

PRIDE · OF · FAMILY

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THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

UPDIKE

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The name of UPDIKE is derived from the Netherlandish op den dyck, meaning "at or near the dike". It was first used in connection with those who lived at a place so situated and was eventually taken as their surname. In ancient European and early American records the name is found in the various forms of Op den Dyck, Oppendyck, Opndyck, Oppdyck, Oppdycke, Oppdike, Oppdyke, Up den Dyck, Uppendyck, Opdyck, Opdycke, Opdeick, Opdike, Opdicke, Opdick, Updyck, Updycke, Updeick, Updicke, Updick, Opdyke, Updyke, Updike, and others, of which the last-mentioned spelling is that most frequently used in America at the present time. The two immediately preceding it are also occasionally found.

About the end of the twelfth century one Hermanus de Dicka, probably Herman op den Dyck (the records being made at that time in Latin), was recorded as having conveyed to the see his freehold estate at Kompe, near Hamm, in the Prussian Province of Westphalia.

Henric op den Dyck, who was born at Wesel, in the County of Cleves, about the year 1297, is the earliest known progenitor of the family in Europe. He was Burgomaster, City Treasurer, and Schepen for the town of Wesel in the early fourteenth century. He died sometime between 1368 and 1383. The name of his wife is not known, but Henric's children were Hildegard, Deric, Wilhelm, Margaret, and Ludegard. Of these, Deric, the eldest son, left issue by his wife Emma of at least two children, Johan and Emma. Johan, only son of Deric, left issue by his wife Judith of a son, also named Johan, who married Ida, daughter of Engelbrecht and Gilliken Renwalts. Their children included two sons, Gysbert and Johan.

Gysbert op den Dyck, elder son of Johan and Ida, was the father at Wesel by his wife Helena of Johan, Lodowick, and Arentheit. Of these, Johan probably left no issue. Lodowick was married in 1522 to Aletta Zailen, by whom he was the father of Gysbert and Anna. The son, Gysbert, married Maria Ryswick and had issue by her of a son named Lodowick, who married Gertrude van Wesek before 1597. This Lodowick was the father of at least three children, Margaret, Maria, and Gysbert, of whom the last came to America about 1638 (being then thirty-three years of age). He will be mentioned again below.

Other early records of the name in the County of Cleves included those of Everard op den Dyck, of Wesel, in 1320; those of Bertoldus op den Dyck, in 1323; those of Bernardus op den Dyck, in 1334; those of Lodowick op den Dyck, of Essen, in 1340; those of Adam op den Dyck, in 1396; those of Henric op den Dyck, Canon of the Premonstrant Abbey at Hamborn, in 1394; those of Rutger op den Dyck, of County Cleves, in 1411; those of Herman op den Dyck, in 1428; those of Bernard op den Dyck, in 1444; those of Thomas op den Dyck, "the needle maker", of Wesel, about the year 1469; those of Deric op den Dyck, of the year 1473, who was the father by his wife Anne of a son named Bernard; those of Johan op den Dyck, of Essen, in 1522; those of Peter op den Dyck, about 1561; those of Werner op den Dyck, in 1572; those of Franz op den Dyck, in 1600; those of Deric and Sweder op den Dyck, brothers, in 1602; those of Herman op den Dyck, in 1603; those of Sander op den Dyck, who was living in 1610; and those of Conrad op den Dyck, of Wesel, about 1618.

In the Netherlands, early records mention Albert op den Dyck, of Elburg, in 1355; Wolter op den Dyck, of Kampen, in 1387; Herman op den Dyck, of Elburg, in 1402; Albert op den Dyck, of 1419; Wolter op den Dyck, of

Oosterwolde, in 1420; and Henric op den Dyck, Judge of Oldebroek, in 1425.

The before-mentioned immigrant, Gysbert Opdyck (as he signed his name), son of Lodowick op den Dyck, of Wesel, came to New Amsterdam (now New York) about 1638. He married Catherine Smith in 1643 and was the father by her of Elizabeth, Lodowick, Richard, Sarah, Johannes (no further record), James, and Daniel. Gysbert removed about 1664 to Rhode Island, where his name was more frequently recorded as Gilbert Updike. Most of his descendants used the Updike form of the name, although many spelled the name Updyke or Opdyke.

Lodowick, eldest son of the immigrant Gysbert, resided at Wickford, R.I. By his wife, Abigail Newton, Lodowick was the father of Richard, Daniel, Esther, Sarah, Catherine, Abigail, and Martha.

Richard Updike, elder of the two sons of the first Lodowick, married Hannah Eldred sometime before 1725. He left issue by her at Kingstown, R.I., of John, Richard, Daniel, James, Mary, and Elizabeth.

Daniel Updike, younger son of the first Lodowick, was first married in 1716 to Sarah Arnold, who died soon afterward without issue. In 1722 he married Austis Jenkins, by whom he had issue of Lodowick, Mary, Gilbert, and Wilkins. Daniel had no progeny by his third wife, Mary Wanton, whom he married in 1745.

Of the other sons of the immigrant Gysbert, Richard died at Wickford, R.I., unmarried; James had a wife named Elizabeth, but is believed to have left no issue; while Daniel, a sea captain, is believed to have died in England, probably without progeny.

About 1653 one Louris Jansen Opdyck (many of whose descendants used the Opdyke form of the name, while others favored Updike and Updyke) came from the Netherlands to Albany, N.Y. As early as 1655 he removed to Gravesend, on Long Island, where he died about four years later. By his wife Christina he had at least one son, named Johannes, who made his home at Hopewell, N.J. It is also probable that Louris had two other sons, Peter and Otto. Of these, Peter is believed to have returned to the Netherlands; while Otto married Marretje Jans, a widow, and made his home at Newtown, L.I. Otto probably died without issue.

Johannes, son of the immigrant Louris, left issue at Hopewell, by his wife Catherine, of Tryntie, Engeltie, Annetie, Lawrence, Albert, and Bartholomew.

Lawrence, eldest son of Johannes, made his home at

Maidenhead, N.J. By his wife Agnes, he had issue of Lawrence Jr., William, John, Catharine, Rachel, Tunis, and Atheliah.

Albert, son of Johannes, left issue by his wife Elizabeth of John, Joshua, William, Benjamin, Sarah, Catharine, Frank, and Hannah.

Bartholomew, son of Johannes, resided in Hunterdon County, N.J., but his records are only fragmentary. And yet another son of Johannes, whose Christian name is not, however, in evidence, is believed to have left two sons, John and William or Asa, of whom the son John removed to Virginia and founded the family of the name in the South.

The fairly numerous progeny of these and perhaps a few other lines of the family have carried the name to distant sections of the United States. Characteristically a modest, reserved, and self-reliant race, often of firm purpose and a thoughtful turn of mind, the Updikes in America have won special success in the fields of education, literature, finance, and business.

Among those of the name who served in the Revolutionary War were Brogan, Clement, and William Updyke, of New Jersey; Lowerance or Lawrence, Rolif or Rolf, Robert, and William Updike, of New Jersey; William Opdike, of New

Jersey; William Opdyke, of Pennsylvania; John Updike, of Pennsylvania; and many more from the other States of that period.

Henry, William, Lodowick, Peter, Bernard, Richard, James, Daniel, Lawrence, and John are some of the Christian names favored in the past by the family for its male offspring.

A few of the many members of the family who have been prominent in America in comparatively recent times are:

Wilkins Updike (1784-1867), of Rhode Island, lawyer, State legislator, and author.

George Opdyke (1805-1880), of New Jersey and New York, banker and author.

Emerson Opdycke (1830-1884), of Ohio and New York, military officer.

Leonard Eckstein Opdycke (1858-1914), of New York, genealogist and translator.

Daniel Berkeley Updike (b. 1860), of Rhode Island, journalist and author.

Frank Arthur Updyke (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Maryland and New Hampshire, author.

George Howard Opdyke (b. 1877), of New York, educator, compiler, and artist.

John Oliver Opdycke (b. 1878), of New York, author and educator.

Although no record has been found in any armorial collection of the coat of arms of the family of Op den Dyck, the seal (without colors) used by five successive generations of the descendants of the first Henric op den Dyck, of Wesel, is given as follows (C. W. Opdyke, The Op Dyck Genealogy, p. 7, 1889):

Shield.--"Six fleurs-de-lys, arranged 3, 2, and 1, and separated by two bars."

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WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place or residence; and (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our [illegible] tion of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civiliza-

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O'. Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final "s" of "Richards" being a contraction of "son"); Neill's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FitzHerberts; Thomas's sons, ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly's sons, O'Reillys.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover, and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames--names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim fathers illustrate place designations: for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; Bradford, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a

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While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose--names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. Skinner was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonmaker, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names--who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor--the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

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